

# YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

April-June 2020

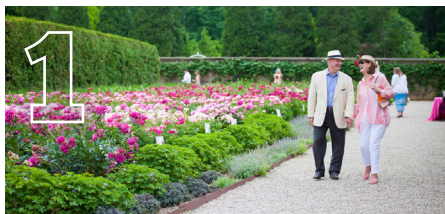
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## MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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### LOCAL GARDEN WALKS

Don't miss the spectacular peony garden at **Allerton Park** when it blooms this spring. Head out every third Saturday for a guided garden tour! Peace and tranquility will wash over you as you find yourself in the

adjacent gardens of the **Japan House** and the **Arboretum**. At the **Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve**, you'll find eight acres of the park dedicated to the **Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden**. A popular backdrop for photos, this garden boasts some of the most beautiful and diverse flora in Central Illinois.

### ON-THE-FARM DINING

Enjoy **Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery's** popular event, **Babies & Brunch** on April 18-19, and April 25-26, where guest chef, Alicia Hinze of the **Buttered Tin** in Minneapolis, and winner of Food Network's "Cupcake Wars," will prepare sweet and savory baked goods for guests who come out to catch the cuteness of the baby goats. In the summer, stay tuned for their limited dinner series on the farm with the Sunday Dinner Club from Chicago. Enjoy ingredients straight from their organic farm at community tables for a night you won't soon forget.



### FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

May 29-August 21 | [40north.org](http://40north.org)

Our vibrant arts scene is on display every Friday following Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day weekend, with four street corners in downtown Champaign offering free live music every Friday night.



### HOT ROD POWER TOUR

June 11 | [hotrod.com](http://hotrod.com)

For the fourth time, the Hot Rod Power Tour will stop in Champaign. Check out over 4,000 hot rods on display at the State Farm Center! Missed the show during the day? Head to downtown Champaign in the evening where hundreds will gather with their hot rods!

### UNCORK URBANA WINE FESTIVAL

June 6 | [urbanabusines.com](http://urbanabusines.com)

Regional wine, entertainment and local food trucks will find their way to Meadowbrook Park in Urbana, providing a perfect summer day!



## Did you know?

- The University of Illinois Research Park is home to 125+ companies, from startup to Fortune 500. Its fastest-growing industry sector is AgTech.
- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has 23 Nobel Laureates and 23 Pulitzer Prize winners.
- We all learned that it's thumbs up or down for films thanks to Urbana native, film critic Roger Ebert. *Buy the Thumbs Up t-shirt at [ChambanaProud.com](http://ChambanaProud.com)!*
- Middle Fork River Forest Preserve was named an International Dark Sky Park, the only one in Illinois. Head to their campgrounds for an unbeatable view of the night sky.



## COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ranks #1 in National Science Foundation research expenditures.
- Champaign ranked #7 Best College Town in America, September 2018 (*Livability*)
- Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery's Goat Cheese named one of "8 Must-Try Midwest Cheeses" (*Feast Magazine*)



Want more ideas for events & activities?  
[visitchampaigncounty.org](http://visitchampaigncounty.org)

Learn more about community rankings & innovations:  
[yourewelcomecu.com](http://yourewelcomecu.com)



# TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

**Sticky Rice** | 415 N. Neil St., Champaign  
[stickyricechampaign.com](http://stickyricechampaign.com) | 217-328-1811

A mother/daughter team bring their Lao flavors to our community through their downtown Champaign restaurant. They source seasonal products from their farm, Green G Farm in Villa Grove.

**Flying Machine Avionics** | 202 S. First St., Champaign | 217-600-7949

This local café, found off the Boneyard Creek in midtown Champaign, serves up light fare for breakfast and lunch and is home to the woman-owned Page Roasting Company.

**Crane Alley** | 115 W. Main St., Urbana  
[crane-alley.com](http://crane-alley.com) | 217-384-7526

A popular stop for playing billiards or sitting in the alleyway on summer nights, Crane Alley is a casual gastro-pub with an impressive craft beer list.

**ET's Downtown** | 107 E. Sangamon Ave., Rantoul  
[etsdowntown.com](http://etsdowntown.com) | 217-893-0222

A new local favorite in downtown Rantoul, ET's serves up tasty BBQ and house-made desserts. This stop is bound to be a favorite when the Rantoul Sports Complex opens in 2021!



## Wood N' Hog

101 W. University Ave., Urbana | 217-367-1010  
500 Walnut St., Champaign | 217-607-0120  
[woodnhogbarbecue.com](http://woodnhogbarbecue.com)

Now with two locations, siblings Michael & Okema can bring their Chicago-style BBQ to the masses in Urbana and Champaign. Don't miss their mac & cheese!

**Triptych Brewing** | 1703 Woodfield Dr., Savoy  
[triptychbrewing.com](http://triptychbrewing.com)

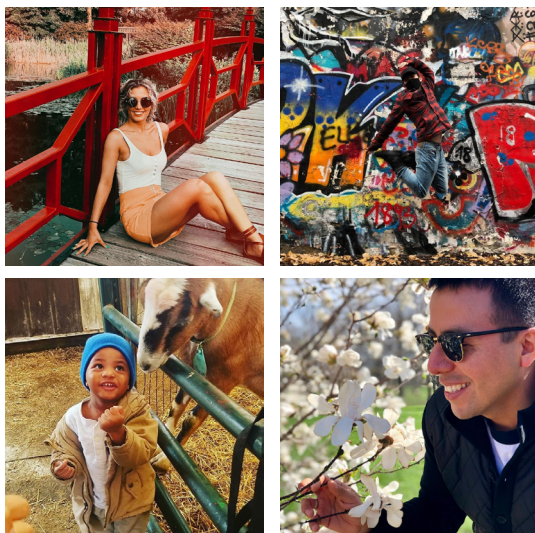
Since opening in 2013, Triptych has brewed over 200 varieties of beer as they explore the intersection of community and the art of beer brewing.

**Timpone's** | 710 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana  
217-344-7619 | [timpones-urbana.com](http://timpones-urbana.com)

The Timpone family brought pizza to Central Illinois, and continue showcasing their Italian dishes at this campus spot adjacent to Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

## Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our spring checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to a local restaurant + a Champaign Proud t-shirt!



Clockwise from top left

1. Mabery Botanical Gardens at Lake of the Woods
2. Sipyard in Downtown Urbana
3. Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery
4. Cherry Blossoms at the Japan House

## STAY ACTIVE & INVOLVED

Spring offers plenty of activities, as well as many ways to supporting charities and volunteer opportunities. Check out our recommendations!

### Outdoor Activities

#### Crystal Lake Park Lake House

206 W. Park St., Urbana | [urbanaparks.org](http://urbanaparks.org)  
Canoe & paddle-boat rentals available Memorial Day weekend

#### Sholem Aquatic Center

2205 Sangamon Dr., Champaign | [champaignparks.com](http://champaignparks.com)

#### Allerton Park & Retreat Center

515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello | [allerton.illinois.edu](http://allerton.illinois.edu)  
Hiking & garden walks

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon [POSTPONED]

April 23-25 | Hundreds of volunteers needed  
[illinoismarathon.com](http://illinoismarathon.com)

#### Illinois Triathlon Championships [CANCELLED]

May 9 | Course volunteers needed  
[mikek@visitchampaigncounty.org](mailto:mikek@visitchampaigncounty.org)